Bible & Daily Living

Life and spirit

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Life Fed By THe Spirit
Lesson for November 8, 1981
Bible Study Passages: Romans 8:23-17, 28, 35-39
Introduction

One of the grand scripture passages in the New Testament is recorded in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Roman church. The Roman letter is a theology book in and of itself. No other writing of Paul declares so explicitly the nature of God, the universal problem of humanity, and the provision for humanity's deliverance in the Person of Jesus Christ.

The eighth chapter of Romans focuses upon the theme of Life In The Spirit. In this chapter Paul describes life when lived in and under the direction of the Spirit. They who seek the leadership of the Spirit will find renewed appreciation of life and will strive to live in a constant state of obedience.

The Spirit is that which moves and motivates us to perform deeds of mercy and acts of righteousness. Whereas sin will set us on a course of death and self-interest, the Spirit urges us to life and self-sacrifice.

New Home and New Relationship [Rom. 8:12-17]

When we say "yes" to God and life in the Spirit, we automatically become "new creatures." We begin to love the things we used to hate and hate the things we used to love. Life takes on a radical new and exciting meaning. It is the Spirit that moves us to grasp and internalize the meaning of our relationship to God. In this relationship we daily struggle to resist the pull of fleshly desires. We struggle to keep from making those choices that will do us in and turn us away from Spirit-living.

When we turn to living life in the Spirit we are blessed with a new relationship. Whenever we choose Christ we are heirs of the kingdom and children of the heavenly Father. To become a son and daughter of God implies we are heirs of an immortal inheritance.

Paul also used the word "son" in describing our relationship to God. The term "children" denotes the status of those who inherit. The term "son" denotes that we are to resemble God in his likeness, that is, in terms of love and compassion. All of God's heirs are participants in the kingdom now and in the kingdom to come.

All For Our Good [Rom. 8:28]

Romans 8:28 is a "golden nugget" in the writings of Paul. This particular verse is often quoted because of the confidence and sense of hopefulness it projects. We may certainly wonder from time to time if all things do indeed work together for our good.

Paul is not saying that all things that happen are good. When an automobile strikes and kills a child we do not say that that is good. When a loved one or a friend has cancer or a heart attack we do not perceive that to be good. It is difficult to think of labeling such tragedies as good. What Paul is saying, however, is that all things do work together to bring about goodness.

We live in a hazardous world where tragedy is always a possibility. We may hope and pray that such tragedies do not come our way. But when they come, we need not assume God is directing such events in order to teach us lessons. He may work through such events, however, to bring about good in our life. It requires a great deal of time to see how we might profit from life's tragedies.

But only those who love God and follow after his divine purpose can possibly see the good that may come to us, even throught dark times. The good news of Romans 8:28 is that God exercises his providential care for his children.

A Love Which Sustains [Rom. 8:33-39]

Love is a binding force that will keep us firm in our relationship to Christ. There is really nothing that has the power to remove or separate us from the love of Christ toward us. No motion or human has the power to separate us from Him who holds us in His strong hands.

Even the often feared force of death cannot remove us from the strong bonds of Christ's love for us. The Spirit both liberates us and bonds us to the love and care of God. This is something to hope in, cling to and celebrate.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital, Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

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Jordan News

The Young Adult Choir will meet on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6:15 p.m. All members are asked to be there on time.

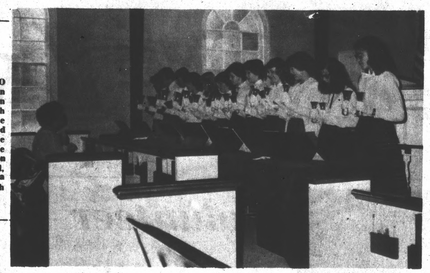
The Senior Choir will practice on Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. with Mrs. Womack.

All members are asked to be present and on time.

The Spiritual Knights will be celebrating their anniversary on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Some of the groups appearing will be the Spiritualettes, the New Horizon Singers, and the Golden Echoes, along with others.

Regular preaching services, Sunday night at 7:30 p.m.

Bells Dedicated



"WE PRESENT THESE HANDBELLS TO BE DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF Almighty God, and for service in this church in loving memory of Pamela Dawn Fuller . . . " This dedication statement by Keith Leonard, President of the Senior Youth Fellowship of the Memorial United Methodist Church, marked the completion of a memorial proposed by the youth and supported by the church and community. Pamela Dawn Fuller was an active member of Memorial United Methodist Church and the UMYF. The Youth Handbell Choir presented two selections for the dedication service on October 25. They are pictured above: Keith Leonard, Ryan Murphy, Neal Leonard, Esther Saunders, Jill Noble, Laura Walton, Nancy Morris, Dawn Pitsenberger, Jane Guill, Elizabeth Saunders, Martha Haley and Donna Lane.

Mt. Shiloh

"Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," John 14:6.

The community was saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs. Mattie J. Paige. Eugologistic services were conducted last Sunday at 3 p.m., with Rev. J. D. Moore officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery. Our prayers are extended to the Paige and Johnson families, and we convey to them that earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.

Let's pray for the sick and shut-in everywhere. Have a good week!

WOW meeting set

Camp 71 and Gorve 6073, Woodmen of the World, will hold its Annual Awards night, Monday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Woodmen Building.

Many of our local people, civic organizations, lodge members, and our 1981 State Degree Team will be recognized for their contributions and efforts in making our community a better place in which to live.

We request that all members make a real effort to attend this special occasion thus reflecting your support to your lodge in another of its community project.

Pvt Robert L. Smith

Smith completes training

Pvt Robert L. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Smith, completed basic training of the United States Marine Corps at Parris Island, South Carolina on Oct. 26, 1981.

Pvt Smith will be attending engineering school at the Second Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina.

Mt. Airy

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. Psalms 121:1

The regular morning worship was held on Sunday morning with the Rev. Braxton officiating. Our pastor was on vacation.

The Young Adult Choir along with the Junior Choir will be in concert at the Rising Sun Baptist Church in Amherst. The bus will leave the church at 1:30.

Use the TIMES-VIRGINIAN CLASSIFIED ADS

Mt. Pleasant

By ODELL CHAMBERS

Beloved, if God so love us, we ought also to love one another (I John 4:11v).

There were great times at the church on Sunday. The Rev. Napier delivered a nice message from St. Luke 19c6v. The theme of his message was "There is something about my Lord which is mighty Sweet."

We had visitors from Mt. Airy and Gravel Hill Baptist Churches. The Rev. Humbles and his family were down, too. In addition, our pastor's youngest sister was with us. Mt. Pleasant's doors are always open and you are welcome to visit at any time.

The Rev. Napier and his wife, along with the Senior Choir, went to Springfield last Sunday. He preached a splendid service. Then, some of the members stopped by Galilee Baptist Church to hear Tim Lawing's trial sermon. There was a tremendous crowd of well-wishers. Tim delivered a tremendous message, and the Community Chorus was great. We are going to continue to pray for him and support him on this journey as a brother in Christ.

The Men's Club will celebrate their fifth anniversary next Sunday, at 3 p.m. Come out, our pastor and chorus will be on duty.

Our sympathy goes out to the Rev. Page and family in the loss of his wife, Mrs. Mattie Page: there was an overflowing crowd at the funeral. Our prayers go out to Miss Hattie Jones, one of our oldest members. She is on the sick list. See you next week.

Baker to speak

Dr. Baker J. Cauthen, missionary, and retired executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, will deliver the morning sermon at Rocks Baptist Church on Nov. 8 at 11:00 a.m.

Anyone interested in hearing Dr. Cauthen is invited to come.

Canaan services

Regular worship services will be held the second Sunday, Nov. 8, at 11:30 a.m. The Rev. C. L. Elliott will be pastor in charge. The Canaan Echoes will render music.

The Scruggs Family Singers will celebrate their sixth anniversary the third Sunday of this month, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m. Many groups have been invited. Please come by and enjoy the evening of songs.

A special program will be sponsored by Raymond Lee Nov. 22 at 3 p.m. Please come by and worship with us.

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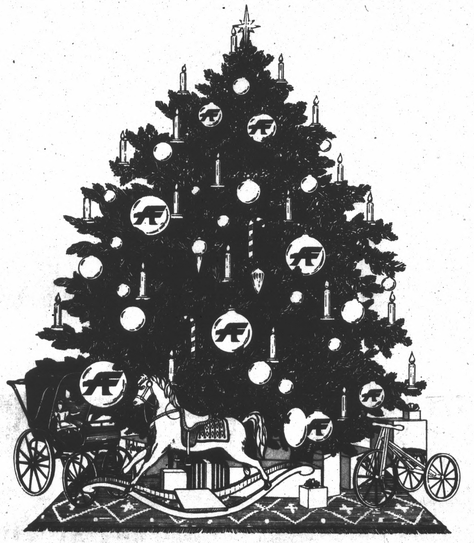
Storage Bin STACK Reg. $1.99 ALMOND — Limit 2 each — 2/$3.00

Times-Virginian Church News



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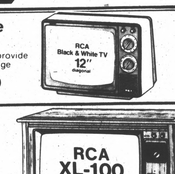

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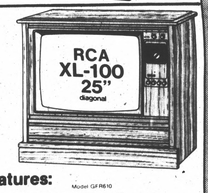

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